

REMARKS

The applicants request entry of this preliminary amendment before examination on the merits. The purpose of the amendment is to introduce additional claims 88-218 which encompass various aspects of the present invention, within the scope of the restriction requirement and elected embodiments (see response to restriction requirement dated July 23, 2002 selecting group 1, claims 1-37). The applicants reserve the right to pursue unelected claims 38-87 in related applications.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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